

**Ad hoc Committee on Responsible Contracting
Monday, February 25, 2013
Council Chambers, Beck Municipal Building**

Minutes

Members Present: Toni Moran (Deputy Mayor), Christopher Paulhus

Other Council Members Present: David Freudmann

Staff Present: Matt Hart, Town Manager, Maria Capriola, Assistant Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of February 13, 2013 were moved by Paulhus, seconded by Moran and unanimously approved as presented.

2. SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

The guest speakers were moved to number two on the agenda. Vincent Valente, Office of Apprenticeship Training with the Connecticut Department of Labor presented on apprenticeship programs. Mr. Valente reviewed: history of apprenticeship programs; relevant state and federal laws; services provided by the Office such as technical assistance to employers, developing apprenticeship program standards, and monitoring agreements between employers and apprentices. Components and benefits of apprenticeship programs were reviewed. Mr. Valente clarified that both union and nonunion shops may have apprenticeship programs and that all participating employers adhere to the same basic program standards.

Ms. Resa Spaziani with the Connecticut Department of Labor presented on workers' classification. Ms. Spaziani spoke to services provided regarding workers' classification issues such as conducting investigations, researching complaints, verifying that contractors properly classify and compensate their workers, and verifying that contractors carry adequate workers compensation insurance coverage. Ms. Spaziani and Mr. Valente offered to share sample responsible contracting language with the Committee upon request.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dean Polloti, Willington, New England Regional Council of Carpenters. Mr. Polloti requested that the New England Regional Council of Carpenters be invited to speak at a future meeting of the Committee, more specifically at the meeting the Association of Builders and Contractors are invited to.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road. Ms. Wassmundt asked for clarification on the federal Davis Bacon Act. She also raised a concern about housing being provided to

Storrs Center construction workers. Ms. Wassmundt questioned duties of the Clerk of the Works.

Greg Zlotnick, Wormwood Hill Road. Expressed his opinion that there is an (construction) industry problem with hiring undocumented workers. He also stated that the practice has a negative impact on legitimate contractors.

Mr. Hart clarified Davis Bacon federal law and similar state laws re: wages for workers on certain federally funded projects. Clerk of Works duties and responsibilities were clarified in response to Ms. Wassmundt's remarks.

4. REPORTS

None.

5. OTHER DISCUSSION

None.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Staff distributed two journal articles and a letter from Mr. P. Phillips. They will be listed in the next packet.

7. FUTURE AGENDAS

Association of Builders and Contractors has been invited to speak at a March meeting. Staff is working to coordinate a date agreeable to the Association and Committee members.

New England Regional Council of Carpenters/labor will be invited to speak at a future but separate meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria E. Capriola, Assistant Town Manager
Town of Mansfield